



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MDEQ RECOMMENDS FLOOD PREPARATIONS

(JACKSON, Miss.) – As a result of flooding forecasts and rising water levels for the Mississippi River, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) advises Mississippians to think about possible environmental issues that can result if flooding reaches their homes, farms, and businesses. The release of oil, gasoline, or chemicals into flood waters can be an environmental hazard.

The following chart prepared by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for Governor Barbour illustrates estimated flood stages and dates:

Location	Reaching flood stage	Flood stage	Forecasted crest date	Forecasted crest height	Feet above flood stage
Tunica	April 29	44 feet	May 12	52.5 feet	8.5 feet
Bolivar	April 29	37 feet	May 14	48.5 feet	11.5 feet
Greenville	April 29	48 feet	May 15	60 feet	12 feet
Vicksburg	May 1	43 feet	May 18	53.5 feet	10.5 feet
Natchez	April 30	48 feet	May 20	60 feet	12 feet

Hydrologic information from the National Weather Service can be found at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=jan>.

MDEQ recommends that tanks such as propane, gas, or diesel be strapped, that chemicals in containers be secured, and household hazardous chemicals such as paints, solvents, and pesticides be placed out of harm's way. These recommendations are applicable to small businesses, residences, farms, hunting camps, and other buildings near possible flood waters.

MDEQ requests that if residents observe any releases of oil, gasoline or chemicals or any stray barrels, waste containers, cylinders and pressure vessels that they promptly report the discovery to the state's 24-hour spill line: 800-222-6362 or 601-961-5171.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has information about flooding at <http://www.epa.gov/naturalevents/flooding.html>.

